

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

KAREEM HOWELL,

Plaintiff,

v.

J. JOHNSON, et al.,

Defendants.

No. 2:20-cv-0520 KJN P

ORDER REFERRING CASE TO POST-  
SCREENING ADR PROJECT AND  
STAYING CASE FOR 120 DAYS

Plaintiff is a state prisoner, proceeding without counsel. Defendants Childs, Flood, Johnson, Troja and Williamson have answered the complaint. Service of process on defendant Moktar remains outstanding.

The undersigned is referring all post-screening civil rights cases filed by pro se inmates to the Post-Screening ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) Project in an effort to resolve such cases more expeditiously and less expensively. Defense counsel from the Office of the California Attorney General has agreed to participate in this pilot project. No defenses or objections shall be waived by their participation.

As set forth in the screening order, plaintiff has stated a potentially cognizable civil rights claim. Thus, the court stays this action for a period of 120 days to allow the parties to investigate plaintiff's claims, meet and confer, and then participate in a settlement conference.

////

1        There is a presumption that all post-screening civil rights cases assigned to the  
2 undersigned will proceed to settlement conference.<sup>1</sup> However, if after investigating plaintiff's  
3 claims and speaking with plaintiff, and after conferring with defense counsel's supervisor,  
4 defense counsel in good faith finds that a settlement conference would be a waste of resources,  
5 defense counsel may move to opt out of this pilot project.

6        Within thirty days, the assigned Deputy Attorney General shall contact this court's  
7 Courtroom Deputy, Alexandra Waldrop, at (916) 930-4187, to schedule the settlement  
8 conference. If difficulties arise in scheduling the settlement conference due to the court's  
9 calendar, the parties may seek an extension of the initial 120 day stay.

10       Once the settlement conference is scheduled, at least seven days prior to conference, the  
11 parties shall submit to the assigned settlement judge a confidential settlement conference  
12 statement. The parties' confidential settlement conference statement shall include the following:  
13 (a) names and locations of the parties; (b) a short statement of the facts and alleged damages; (c) a  
14 short procedural history; (d) an analysis of the risk of liability, including a discussion of the  
15 efforts made to investigate the allegations; and (e) a discussion of the efforts that have been made  
16 to settle the case.

17       In accordance with the above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

18       1. This action is stayed for 120 days to allow the parties an opportunity to settle their  
19 dispute before the discovery process begins. Except as provided herein or by subsequent court  
20 order, no other pleadings or other documents may be filed in this case during the stay of this  
21 action. The parties shall not engage in formal discovery, but the parties may elect to engage in  
22 informal discovery.

23       2. Within thirty days from the date of this order, the assigned Deputy Attorney General  
24 shall contact this court's Courtroom Deputy, Alexandra Waldrop, at (916) 930-4187, to schedule  
25 the settlement conference.

26       ///

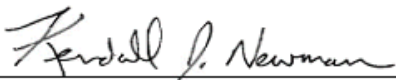
27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>1</sup> If the case does not settle, the court issues a discovery and scheduling order.

1           3. At least seven days prior to the settlement conference, each party shall submit a  
2 confidential settlement conference statement, as described above, to the judge assigned for  
3 settlement.

4           4. If a settlement is reached at any point during the stay of this action, the parties shall file  
5 a Notice of Settlement in accordance with Local Rule 160.

6           5. The parties remain obligated to keep the court informed of their current address at all  
7 times during the stay and while the action is pending. Any change of address must be reported  
8 promptly to the court in a separate document captioned for this case and entitled "Notice of  
9 Change of Address." See L.R. 182(f).

10 Dated: November 3, 2020

11   
12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 KENDALL J. NEWMAN  
14 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

15 /howe0520.adr.post.answer.kjn  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28